from 1600 in the year 2002 to 225 in 2003 to 136 in 2004. During 2005 (till 23rd April) only 14 cases of polio have been reported in the country.

(b) to (d) The Hepatitis B is not included in National Immunization Programme. However, a pilot Project on Hepatitis B is being implemented in 33 districts and 15 cities spread all over the country with support of GAVI (Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunology). Under this programme three doses of Hepatitis B vaccines is given along with DPT at an interval of 406 weeks to children 6, 10 and 14 weeks old. Thus it is a part of the Routine Immunization Programme. Hence the question of Hepatitis B vaccination campaign together with Polio Eradication campaign does not arise.

Revision of passenger fares

4753. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have made adequate provision for meeting the additional cost of diesel it consumes, which works out to almost Rs. 2.5000 crores a year;

(b) whether the volatility of crude prices, currently ruling, would have any impact on the fuel bill commitments of Railways for the year 2004-05; and

(c) if so, whether the Railways would propose upward revision of passenger fares?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During 2004-05, the price of diesel was increased thrice and the combined impact of these increases for that year was assessed at around Rs. 550 crore. The same has been fully provided for in the estimates for the fiscal year without any increase in passenger fares.

Rail lines to improve the supply of coal to thermal plants

4754. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the thermal generation has increased manifold but no additional railway lines have been laid to carry coal to these high coal consumption centres with the result that the thermal stations are running on a power supplies for 4-6 days;

(b) the rail linkages planned to improve the supply of coal of these plants; and

(c) the time-frame to implement these rail linkages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir Railways have been able to move coal to all the rail fed Thermal Power Stations as per the approved linkage and the coal stock in most of the Thermal Power Station are comfortable.

(b) Construction of new rail lines and improving the capacity of the existing rail lines is an ongoing process which is taken up in different parts of the country. Construction of these rail lines are planned keeping in view the overall traffic need. However, the linkage of coal to Power Stations is prepared quarterly on short-term basis for ensuring adequate supply of coal to Power Stations.

(c) Does not arise.

Interim report of UC Banerjee Committee

4755. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UC Banerjee Committee in its interim report revealed that the Godhra train fire was accidental;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether scores of people have been languishing in jails, arrested under POTA, on the charge of conspiring to set the coaches on fire; and

(d) if so, the details of persons booked by police in this connection and the present status of these accused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee concluded in its interim report that the fire originated in the coach itself without any external input and ascribed it to be an accidental fire which engulfed the coir, the foam and the latex available on the berths coupled with the luggage of the passengers causing thereby the smell of burning and thereafter dense smoke culminating into leaping flames.

(c) and (d) As per the available information 90 persons are reported to be accused under one case filed under POTA relating to Godhra incident.